

IN THE DRAWINGS:

Please amend Figs. 5 and 16 as shown on the attached sheets (annotated sheets indicating the changes made, and formal replacement sheets). Fig. 5 is amended by changing reference number "3" to --- 5 --- for consistency, while a label "Prior Art" is added to Fig. 16.

REMARKS

Upon entry of the present Revised Preliminary Amendment the claims in the application are claims 1-20, of which claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 are independent.

Allowed Claims

Applicant gratefully acknowledges allowance of all claims (1-20) at item 6 of the Office Action.

Amendments Presented

Paragraph [0070] and Fig. 5 are amended to overcome a minor informality noted by the Examiner, i.e., reference number “3” is changed to ---5--- for consistency, while Fig. 16 is amended by the addition of the label “Prior Art”.

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the above amendments are fully supported by the original application. Applicant also respectfully submits that the above amendments do not introduce any new matter into the application.

Further, applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments overcome the Examiner’s objections to the drawings, and it is respectfully requested that the objections be reconsidered and withdrawn.

IDS

Regarding the Examiner’s comments at item 1 of the Office Action regarding the IDS previously filed in this application, applicant is filing another IDS concurrently herewith which includes copies of the listed references. The references listed in the new IDS include two (JP 05-

094195 A and JP 06-161463 A) which are previously cited and discussed in the present specification, and two (JP 10-268874 A and JP 2003-166298 A) cited in the International Search Report previously filed in this application.

Conclusion

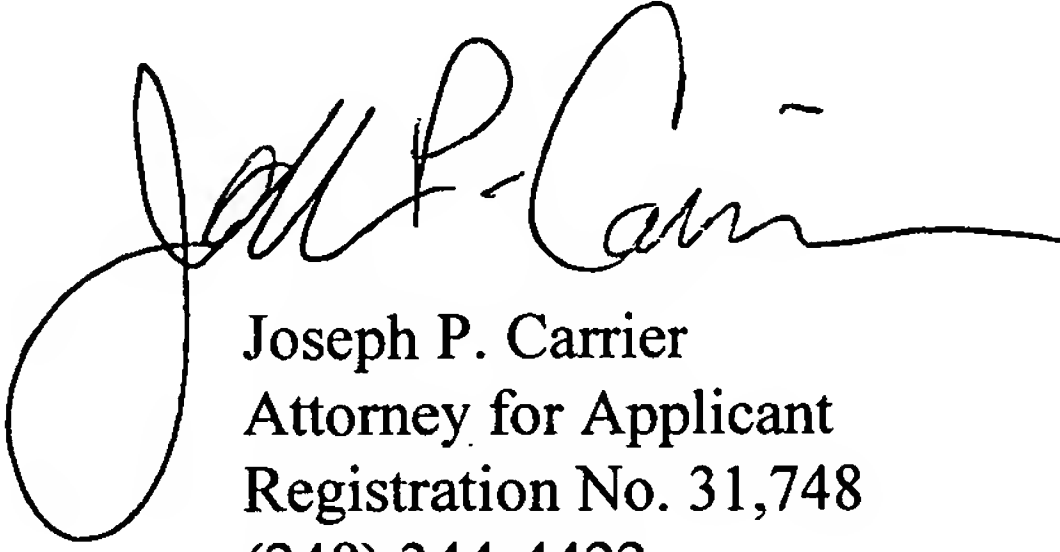
The above amendments are believed to place the application in condition for allowance, again noting the Examiner's allowance of all claims 1-20, and issuance of a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any remaining or additional concerns regarding this application, applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner telephonically contact applicant's undersigned representative to expeditiously resolve the same.

Favorable consideration is respectfully requested.


Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on September 19, 2008.



JPC/ms
Enclosures

FIG. 4

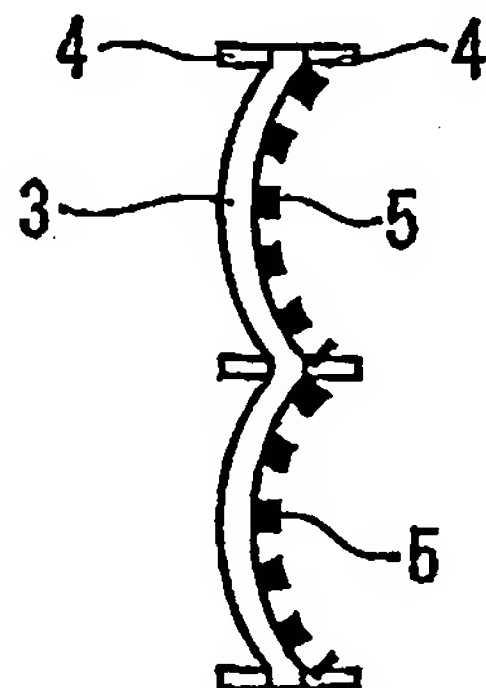


FIG. 5

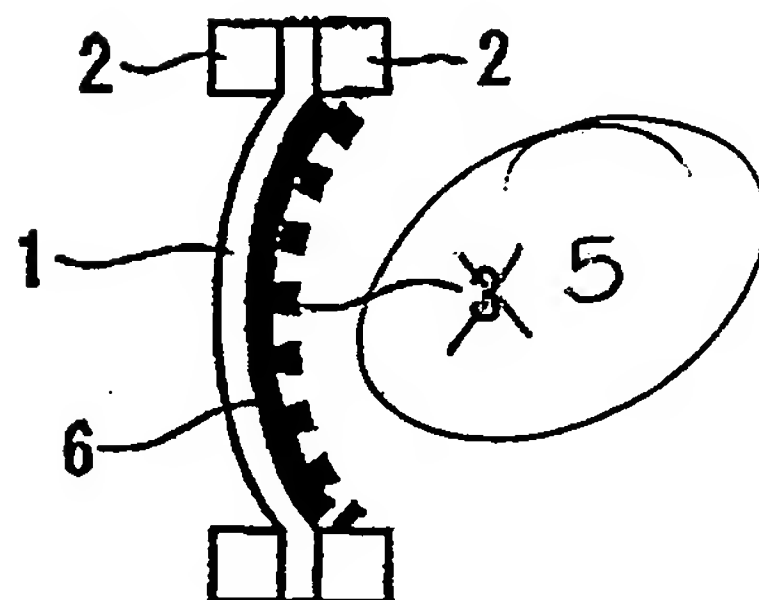


FIG. 6

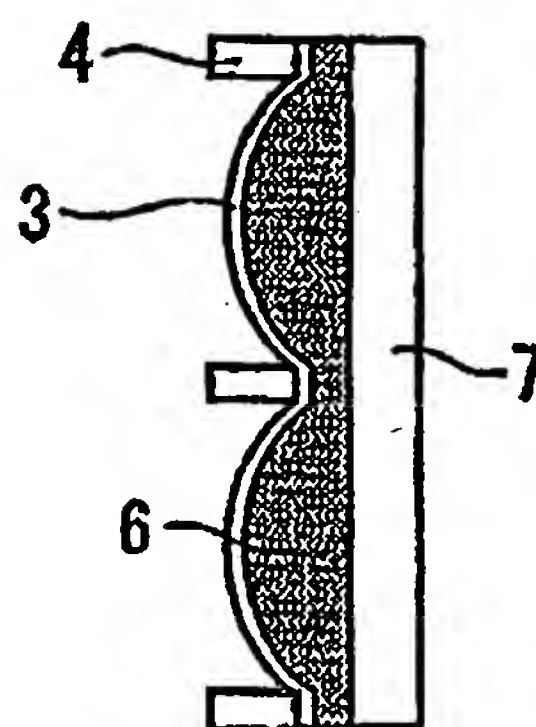


FIG. 7

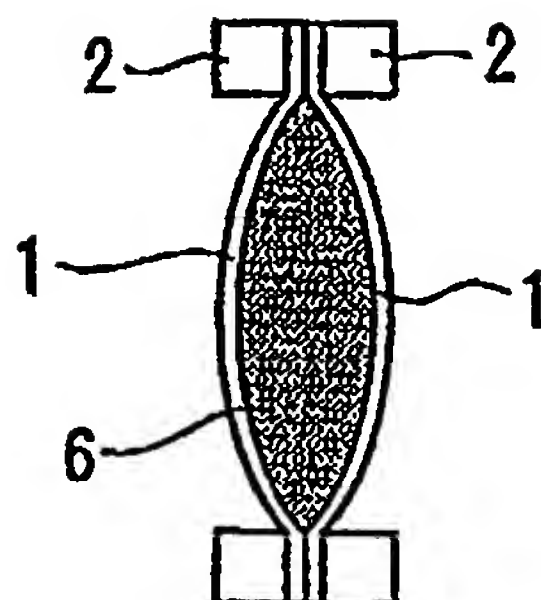
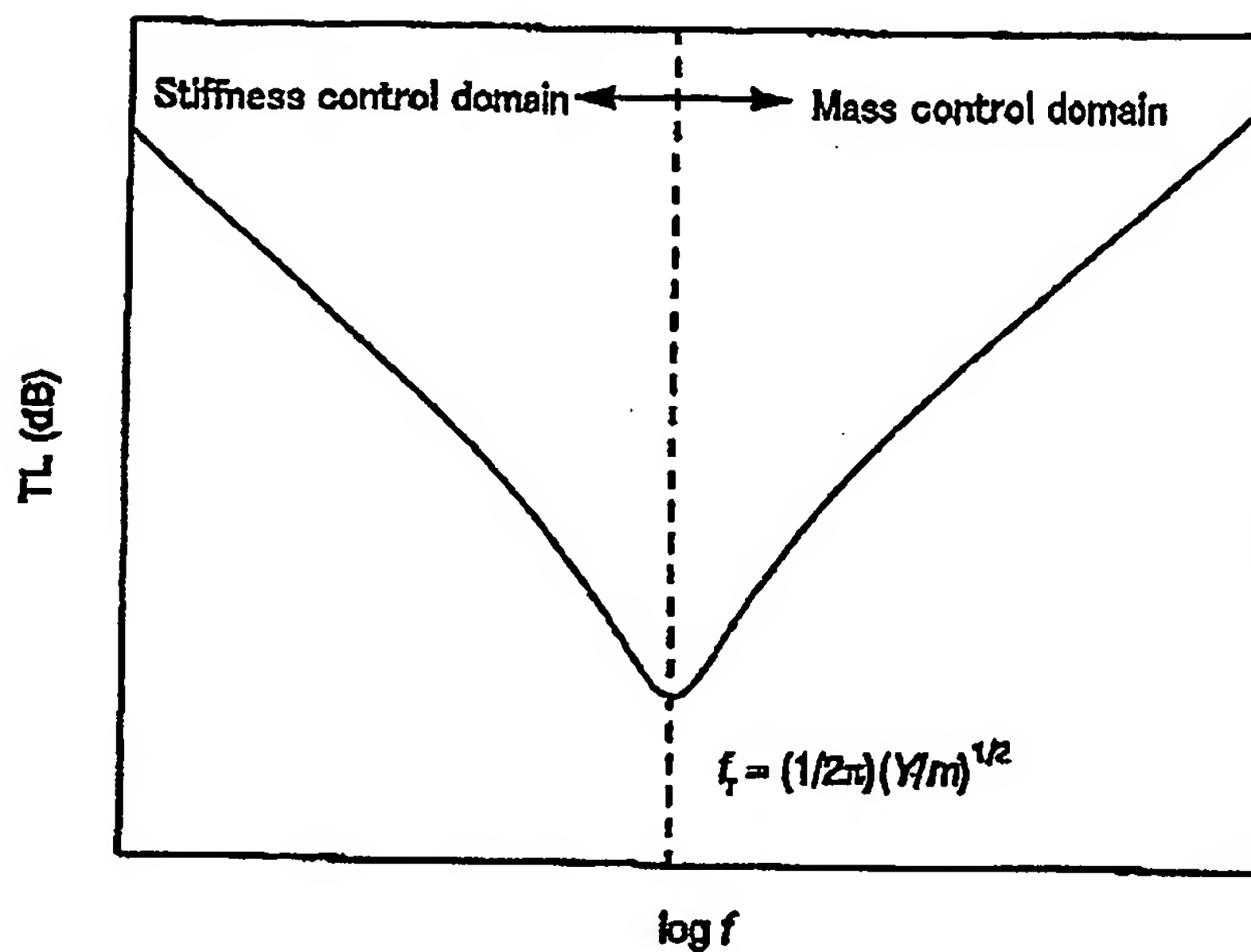


FIG. 16



PRIOR ART